

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NO. 2020-125-E ORDER NO. 2020-106-H

NOVEMBER 9, 2020

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

Application of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated (“DESC”) for Adjustment of Rates and Charges

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Petition to Intervene of South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (“CCL”) and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (“SACE”) (collectively, “Petitioners”)

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER’S ACTION:

This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of CCL and SACE. The Petition was timely filed on the return date of October 30, 2020. The Commission’s Docket Management System reveals no objections to the Petition.

After it has been determined that the Petition has been timely filed, the next question for the Commission is to determine whether or not the petitioning party has clear factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires that a party making a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the SC Public Service Commission must:

set forth clearly and concisely:

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**
- (c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

Objections to a Petition to Intervene shall be filed with the Commission within ten days of service of the Petition to Intervene. S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-825A(3) (2012) (emphasis added).

The position of the Petitioners in the proceeding must also be concisely and clearly stated; provided it is known. The Commission has historically allowed a petitioning party to intervene even if the party has not made a determination of its position in a docket/proceeding provided such intervention would not cause undue delay in the proceedings or prejudice the rights of other parties.

The Petitioners state that they and their members have a direct and substantial interest in the rates and charges imposed by DESC for electric service in South Carolina. The Petition

asserts that the Petitioners' members who receive electricity service from DESC at their homes and businesses will be directly affected by the rate increase requested by DESC and the proposed increase to the basic facilities charge for residential customers. The Petition further states that the Petitioners and their members are also interested in promoting better rate design and increased investments in low-income energy efficiency, demand-side management, rooftop solar, and other clean, distributed energy resources. Further, the Petitioners state that they seek to intervene in this proceeding in order to advocate for the interests of low-income customers, for smart and equitable rate design, and energy efficiency programs to provide bill relief to DESC's customers. If allowed to intervene, the Petitioners state that they will participate in the evidentiary hearing.

Based upon the facts and applicable law, the Petition to Intervene of CCL and SACE is granted. The Petitioners have presented a timely, concise, and clear showing of their substantial interest in this rate proceeding. The Petitioners members who receive electricity service from DESC at their homes and businesses will clearly be directly affected by the rate increase proposed by DESC, including the proposed increase to the basic facilities charge for residential customers. Further, the Petitioners state their grounds and position by asserting their interest in promoting a number of additional concepts, such as better rate design, increased investments in low-income energy efficiency, demand-side management, rooftop solar, and other clean, distributed energy resources.

The Petition clearly meets the criteria for a Petition to Intervene found in S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3). Further, the Petition was timely filed, and no objections have been stated. Accordingly, the Petition to Intervene of CCL and SACE is granted.